

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS AND AREA

OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (a), the following acts are prohibited within the area of National Forest System (NFS) lands shown in Exhibit A at the Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area on the Chelan Ranger District, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

1. Camping in the Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area. (36 CFR 261.58(E)).
2. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire. (36CFR 261.52(A)).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
2. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission

This prohibition is in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

Done at Wenatchee, Washington, the 25th day of July, 2013.

for Stuart Parie

REBECCA LOCKETT HEATH
Forest Supervisor
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Violations of this prohibition are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization or imprisonment for not more than six months or both. (Title 16 U.S.C. 551 and 19 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571)

Assessment of Need and Enforcement Plan

Background: A Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact was signed for the Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area Recreation improvements in 2003. The Decision Notice included direction to sign manage Echo Ridge as a day use area only. The trail system within the ski area is a popular destination for seasonal recreation activities for skiers, snowshoers, hikers, and mountain bikers throughout the year. The area has never been signed as a day use area. In 2010 it became apparent to Chelan Ranger District Personnel that dispersed camping was occurring at Echo Ridge trailheads on an increasing basis, especially during the snow free months. Additionally, camping was occurring in the Lake Chelan Nordic Club yurt at the Upper Echo Ridge Trailhead. Camping activity has continued annually during the snow free months into the summer months of 2013. The increase in camping has been associated with uncontained campfires, target shooting, increase in litter, late night parties. The District desires to institute a camping and campfire closure with both an education and enforcement component to protect this popular day use trail system.

Intent of Closure: Prohibiting camping and campfires, which is consistent with managing the Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area as a day use area, will meet the intent of the Decision Notice issued for development of this recreation site. Implementation of the special order will reduce negative impacts commonly associated with dispersed camping and provide for a safer day use experience for trail users. Implementing the order now, should enable an easier transition to a camping prohibition because camping is only occurring on limited, albeit increasing, basis. Taking a proactive approach to institute this closure before overnight camping becomes entrenched at this site will best serve the recreating public. Dispersed camping opportunities are available adjacent to the closure area.

Proposed Enforcement Plan: The following activities need to occur to implement this special order in a manner that results in public acceptance and safety:

Action	Responsible Official	Date
Prepare proposed order	Chelan District Resource Asst.	June 26, 2013
Review proposed order	Patrol Captain	July 24, 2013
Approve proposed order	Forest Supervisor	July 26, 2013
Post area with closure order	District Personnel	August 2013
Educate users about order	District Personnel	August-November 2013
Educate/Enforce order	District Personnel	December 2013

for Travis Paine
REBECCA LOCKETT HEATH
Forest Supervisor
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

7/25/13
Date

Exhibit A: Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area Camping & Campfire Closure



T29NR22E

North Junction

Shoe

Upper/Lower Echo

T28NR22E

T28NR23E

Legend



Forest Boundary



Camping/Campfire Closure

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Forsberg, Naomi A -FS

From: Grover-Wier, Kari -FS
nt: Wednesday, July 24, 2013 3:43 PM
To: Forsberg, Naomi A -FS; Moelder, Robert -FS
Cc: Willard, Paul -FS
Subject: RE: Echo Ridge Camping Closure Order -

I concur with this closure order and Becki is in the loop on this as well. She will be ready to sign the closure order when it comes to her desk.

Thanks,

Kari Grover Wier

District Ranger
Chelan Ranger District
Okanogan-Wenatchee NF

Office: 509.682.4920
Cell : 509.470.5857



for the greatest good

From: Forsberg, Naomi A -FS
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2013 3:41 PM
To: Grover-Wier, Kari -FS; Moelder, Robert -FS
Subject: FW: Echo Ridge Camping Closure Order -

Can I get a concurrence from both of you on this closure? Thanks

Naomi (Noni) Forsberg
Office Services
Phone: 509-664-9340
Fax: 509-664-9280

From: Willard, Paul -FS
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2013 2:24 PM
To: Forsberg, Naomi A -FS
Cc: Moelder, Robert -FS; Graves, David C -FS; Kujala, Michael -FS
Subject: Echo Ridge Camping Closure Order -

Noni,

I have discussed this draft order with Moelder and Graves. Please pass this through the channels for review, and assign order number.

If you need anything else from me let me know.

Paul E. Willard
Resource Assistant
Kelan Ranger District
Okanogan & Wenatchee NF
509-682-4960 - W
509-699-9690 - C